

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BAGHDAD 002471

SIPDIS

STATE FOR INR/R/MR, NEA/PPD, NEA/PPA, NEA/AGS, INR/IZ,
INR/P

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KMDR](#) [KPAO](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: IRAQ NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
GOVERNMENT; BAGHDAD

1. SUMMARY: The major themes in the daily newspapers on June. 12 were the preparations for drafting the constitution and the developments of the security situation. END SUMMARY.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. "National rights are red lines that should not be crossed" (Al-Ittihad, 6/12)

B. "In order to root out terrorism" (Al-Bayyan, 6/12)

SELECTED COMMENTARIES

A. "National rights are red lines that should not be crossed" (Al-Ittihad, 6/12)

Al-Ittihad (affiliated with the PUK led by Jalal Talabani) published a third-page editorial by Abdul Hadi Mahdi about Kurdish rights:

"All parties should work to remove the anxiety that currently exists in the Iraqi political field. There are many factors that have contributed to this rise of anxiety that should be contained by simply instituting logical practices. One way to move forward is to hold meetings that are characterized by transparency. Iraq has many wise politicians and religious figures that are prepared to offer their assistance and advice. Today, unfortunately, a new trend has emerged in our society that is attempting to pass over the Transitional Administrative Law (TAL) -- the document that all parties agreed to use as the foundation for the permanent constitution. Through the issuance of statements, this attempt is aimed at depriving the Kurds of their national and political rights.

It is strange that the majority of these statements have come from members of the Unified Iraqi Alliance (UIA). Perhaps the figures making such statements are unaware of the agreement that was reached between the UIA and the Kurdish list concerning the transitional government. These statements have taken many different forms, including the deletion of the three main words from the government swearing in ceremony and the Prime Minister not mentioning the Kurdish demands to the National Assembly with regard to the political program. In addition, statements on Kirkuk have appeared which contradict the previous agreement on this issue between the UIA and the Kurds and also oppose what is stated in the TAL. The Kurdish leadership has been clear on the Kirkuk issue and has demanded the necessity of implementing Article 58 from the TAL.

These statements indicate either a lack of understanding for the Kurdish political position or an ignorance of the history and facts of the Iraqi situation. Such unintelligent statements are only the fault of those who made them in the first place. However, there could also be an intentional campaign to prevent the Kurds from achieving their political and national demands, which will only lead to a national disaster. We hope that such statements are not being made intentionally and that they will not be repeated in the future, especially in an environment where everyone refuses to get caught up in sectarianism."

B. "In order to root out terrorism" (Al-Bayyan, 6/12)

Al-Bayyan (affiliated with the Islamic Dawa Party led by Al-Jafari) published a front-page editorial about the developments of the "Lightning" military operation in Iraq:

"The terrible crime that occurred last Friday night in As-Shua'la was not the first of its kind. There have been many other similar crimes not only in this area but also in other areas throughout Iraq. The goal of these criminals - to create sectarian sedition that will ultimately spark a civil war -- has become clear to the Iraqi people. However, these criminals have begun to realize that their crimes will not achieve their objective and that it will be impossible for them to create a civil war that will fulfill

the wishes of Abu Musab Al-Zarqawi.

It is clear that the Lightning operation has had a successful impact, despite the continuance of attacks like that which recently occurred in As-Shua'la. Attacks such as this serve to indicate that the terrorists have reached their end in Iraq. Nonetheless, it is important for all Iraqi citizens to support the ongoing operations that are cleansing Iraq from the terrorists. Expressing condemnation is not enough. Everyone must make an active contribution in this important operation.

The crime that occurred in As-Shua'la did not differentiate between any particular nationality or denomination.

Instead, this crime was inflicted against all Iraqis and therefore demonstrates that no one is safe from being targeted by the terrorists as they continue the road of their demise. All Iraqis must contribute to this final stage of eradicating terrorism from our society. Serious and determined efforts are required by everyone so that we can end this terrible phenomenon in our society and return stability and security to Iraq."

JEFFREY